

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05663 051724Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----051751Z 070131 /47

O R 051705Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2391  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION BERLIN  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05663

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UK, FR, GW, GE, UR  
SUBJECT: ALLIED REACTIONS TO RECENT GDR ACTIONS  
AFFECTING BERLIN

REF: STATE 75293

SUMMARY: CHARGE SAW HIBBERT TO REINFORCE DEPARTMENT'S  
DEMARCHE ABOUT GORONWY-ROBERTS' PLANNED VISIT TO GDR.  
HMG IS NOT LIKELY TO REVERSE ITS DECISION. ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF VISIT EXPECTED APRIL 6. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH ALL APPROPRIATE HIGHER RANKING FCO OFFICIALS  
OUT OF COUNTRY OR OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE, CHARGE SAW  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY HIBBERT AFTERNOON APRIL 5 TO RE-  
ENFORCE DEPARTMENT'S DEMARCHE ABOUT PLANNED VISIT TO  
EAST BERLIN BY FCO MINISTER OF STATE LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS.  
MEANWHILE FCO HELD UP ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT WHICH WAS TO  
HAVE BEEN MADE AT 12:30 NEWS BRIEFING APRIL 5.

2. HIBBERT REITERATED LINE WHICH WE HAD HEARD EARLIER  
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IN DAY FROM FCO WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT AND  
GORONWY-ROBERTS' OFFICE -- AND WHICH WE ASSUME BRITISH  
DCM MORETON CONVEYED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE  
DURING THE APRIL 4 FOLLOW-THROUGH TO THEIR APRIL 2  
DISCUSSION. BRITISH CONSIDER G-R VISIT NOT COMPARABLE  
TO VISITS CONTEMPLATED BY FRENCH FONMIN OR US ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY. G-R VISIT IS ROUTINE, SUB-CABINET LEVEL,

LONG PLANNED AND NOW THOROUGHLY ARRANGED; NEITHER DE GUIRINGAUD NOR HARTMAN VISITS HAD EVER REACHED STATE OF FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS. G-R VISIT IS PART OF TRIP THAT ALSO INCLUDES POLAND AND IS IMMINENT (ITINERARY IS WARSAW APRIL 11 AND EAST BERLIN APRIL 14). UK ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO, AND WOULD NOT WANT TO PUT OFF, THE POLISH VISIT; CANCELLING THE EAST GERMAN PORTION WOULD THEREFORE BE AN ESPECIALLY STRONG REBUFF TO THE GDR. OUR ASKING BRITISH TO CALL OFF THE VISIT TO EAST GERMANY -- WHICH NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR WEST GERMANS HAVE DONE -- IS ASKING THEM TO DO SOMETHING UNREASONABLE AND DISPROPORTIONATE, AND WOULD SERVE NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE.

3. MORE GENERALLY, HIBBERT SAID, VARIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY GDR ARE VEXING, BUT DO NOT AFFECT ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THE UK DOES NOT THINK THAT ANY THRESHHOLD IS BEING APPROACHED THAT IS DANGEROUS FOR THE ALLIES. THERE IS NO POINT IN MAKING A FUSS ABOUT GDR ACTIONS THAT CANNOT BE PREVENTED, THAT MERELY TRIM OFF MARGINAL REMNANTS OF THE PAST. THE UK FAVORS EFFECTIVE PROTESTS, BUT PROTESTS TO THE RUSSIANS. CONCENTRATION MUST BE ON THAT WHICH IS EFFECTIVE.

4. HIBBERT DESCRIBED THE GORONWY-ROBERTS VISIT AS AN EVENT THAT FITS INTO BRITAIN'S MODEST LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF SLOWLY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH WESTERN ALLIES, BUILDING UP RELATIONS WITH GDR. IT IS NOT A BREACH OF ANY AGREED ALLIED POLICY.

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5. MEETING WITH HIBBERT CONCLUDED WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD URGENTLY REPORT TO GORONWY-ROBERTS. HE HELD OUT NO HOPE THAT UK WOULD REVERSE ITS DECISION AND SAID ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE APRIL 6.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, STATUS OF BERLIN, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** ALLIED REACTIONS TO RECENT GDR ACTIONS AFFECTING BERLIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UK, FR, GE, GC, UR, (GORONWY-ROBERTS)  
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